



## great blue lobelia

*Lobelia siphilitica*

Kingdom: Plantae  
Division/Phylum: Anthophyta - flowering plants

### Features

Great blue lobelia is a perennial herb with an upright stem that usually is unbranched and contains milky sap. It may grow up to four feet tall. Its toothed leaves are arranged alternately on the stem. Each leaf may be up to five inches long. The blue flowers are up to one inch long. Fruits are capsules with an opening at the top.

### Natural History

Great blue lobelia grows in wet soils and is found in wet prairies, marshes, and fens. It flowers from August through September. It is uncommon in the northwest part of the state and common elsewhere.

### Habitats

Mississippi River; Missouri River; natural lakes and prairie marshes; interior rivers and streams; wet prairies and fens; constructed lakes, ponds and reservoirs

### Iowa Status

common; native

### Iowa Range

scattered throughout Iowa in suitable habitats

### Bibliography

Iowa Department of Natural Resources. 2001.  
*Biodiversity of Iowa: Aquatic Habitats* CD-ROM.